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Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously presented) An $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole, wherein:

R_1 is a linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ -alkyl group, or a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_{12}$ -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}$ alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group, a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -alkylene group, a phenyl group, and a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group, the cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen.

2. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is a linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group, or a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_5$ -alkyl group, a cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_5$ -alkylene group, a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_5$ -alkyl group, the cyclic $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_5$ -alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

3. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein R_1 is a linear, branched, or cyclic C_4 -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_4 -alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C_3 -alkyl group or a cyclic C_3 -alkylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3 -alkyl group or the cyclic C_3 -alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

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4. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.
5. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt has a pKa value equal to or greater than about 10.5.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled).
8. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt is the *tert*-butylammonium salt of omeprazole.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to claim 1, wherein the salt is crystalline.
11. (Previously presented) A process for preparation of an $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10, which comprises the steps of:
 - a) dissolving omeprazole in an organic solvent;
 - b) adding an $\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3$ compound and precipitating the desired salt; and
 - c) isolating and drying the obtained salt of omeprazole.
12. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 11, wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.
13. (Canceled)
14. (Canceled)
15. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of omeprazole according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10 as active ingredient in association with

pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and optionally one or more additional therapeutic ingredients.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting gastric acid related secretion comprising administering to a patient suffering from the condition a therapeutically effective amount of the $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt according to any one of claims 1-5, 8, or 10.

18. (Previously presented) An $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole, wherein:

R_1 is a linear or branched C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl group, or a cyclic C_3 - C_{12} -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_1 - C_{12} alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3 - C_6 -alkyl group, a cyclic C_3 - C_6 -alkylene group, a phenyl group, and a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3 - C_6 -alkyl group, the cyclic C_3 - C_6 -alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups; and

R_2 and R_3 are hydrogen.

19. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R_1 is a linear or branched C_1 - C_6 -alkyl group or a cyclic C_3 - C_6 -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_1 - C_6 alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a substituent selected from the group consisting of a cyclic C_3 - C_5 -alkyl group, a cyclic C_3 - C_5 -alkylene group, a phenyl group, or a phenylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3 - C_5 -alkyl group, the cyclic C_3 - C_5 -alkylene group, the phenyl group, or the phenylene group is optionally further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

20. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein R_1 is a linear, branched, or cyclic C_4 -alkyl group, wherein the linear or branched C_4 -alkyl group is optionally substituted or interrupted with a cyclic C_3 -alkyl group or a cyclic C_3 -alkylene group, and wherein the cyclic C_3 -alkyl group or the cyclic C_3 -alkylene group is further substituted by 0, 1, 2, or 3 methyl groups.

21. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pK_a value equal to or greater than about 10.

22. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt has a pK_a value equal to or greater than about 10.5.

23. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is the *tert*-butylammonium salt of esomeprazole.

24. (Previously presented) The $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to claim 18, wherein the salt is crystalline.

25. (Previously presented) A process for preparation of an $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of esomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24, which comprises the steps of:

- a) dissolving esomeprazole in an organic solvent;
- b) adding an $\text{NR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3$ compound and precipitating the desired salt; and
- c) isolating and drying the obtained salt of esomeprazole.

26. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 25, wherein the organic solvent is acetonitrile or *tert*-butyl methyl ether.

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27. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt of csomeprazole according to any one of claims 18-24 as active ingredient in association with pharmaceutically acceptable excipients and optionally one or more additional therapeutic ingredients.

28. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting gastric acid secretion comprising administering to a patient suffering from the condition a therapeutically effective amount of the $\text{NHR}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3^+$ salt according to any one of claims 18-24.

29. (Canceled)